
Pastoral biblical narrative

FROM SIN TO ETERNAL LIFE

God's gift in Christ Jesus

Personalized by: Ruperto Bravo Benavente

Reina-Valera 1960
Nuevo Testamento interlineal griego-español
Francisco Lacueva

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Purpose and biblical reading

Eternal life is received in Jesus Christ. This narrative follows the human condition before God, the Savior's death and resurrection, the response of repentance and faith, and the hope of living with the Lord forever. It explains the biblical message so that readers can follow it even when they do not have a Bible at hand.

Direct texts provide the main biblical foundation for each subject. Complementary texts broaden its context, consequences, or promises. The summaries explain the content of Scripture and do not replace reading the complete passages. They are explanatory paraphrases rather than quotations from a published English Bible.

The Spanish Reina-Valera 1960 is the biblical reference for this work. Francisco Lacueva's Greek-Spanish interlinear provides textual support for the relationship between grace, faith, and works in Ephesians 2:8–10. Christian hope is presented through trust in Christ's work, without assigning dates to his return.

1 The human condition before God

Direct texts: Romans 3:23; Romans 3:9–20. Paul declares that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Before making that statement, he explains that both Jews and Gentiles are under sin. The law exposes guilt; no one can turn personal obedience into a sufficient defense before God.

Complementary texts: Psalm 51:1–4; Luke 18:9–14. David acknowledges his sin and asks for mercy. In Jesus' parable, the tax collector offers no claim of merit and pleads for God's forgiveness. These passages show honest confession without favorable comparisons with other people.

Pastoral reflection. Acknowledging sin can hurt, but it allows us to stop hiding it. Come before God truthfully. His grace reaches people who need forgiveness, including those who no longer know how to repair the story of their own lives.

2 Sin and the reality of death

Direct texts: Ezekiel 18:4, 20–23; Romans 6:23. Ezekiel affirms personal responsibility for sin and calls people to turn away from evil. God declares that he takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Romans connects sin with death and presents eternal life as God's gift in Christ Jesus.

Complementary texts: James 1:14–15; Hebrews 9:27. James describes how desire gives rise to sin and how sin leads to death. Hebrews reminds readers that human death is followed by judgment. These teachings do not allow us to treat our choices as insignificant.

Pastoral reflection. Ezekiel speaks within his setting of covenant responsibility; Romans announces God's answer in Christ. Hearing the biblical warning should lead us to seek the Savior and take seriously the harm that sin causes.

3 God's love and the sending of his Son

Direct texts: John 3:16–18; Romans 5:8. God loved the world and gave his Son so that those who believe may have eternal life. John distinguishes faith in the Son from unbelief. Paul adds that Christ died for us while we were still sinners: God's love comes before our response.

Complementary texts: 1 John 4:9–10; Luke 15:20–24. John presents the sending of the Son as the expression of divine love and the sacrifice for sins. Jesus' parable of the lost son portrays a father who welcomes his returning son with compassion. It illustrates mercy without describing every aspect of salvation.

Pastoral reflection. You do not need to manufacture a worthiness that would make grace unnecessary. The Father calls you to trust the Son he has given. His love does not diminish the seriousness of sin; it explains why he has provided reconciliation for sinners.

4 The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Direct texts: 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, 14–20. Paul recalls the gospel: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day according to the Scriptures. He later states that without the resurrection, faith would be futile. Christian hope depends on a living Savior.

Complementary texts: Isaiah 53:5–6; 1 Peter 3:18. Isaiah describes the servant who suffers for the transgressions of others. Peter states that Christ suffered for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God. The cross reveals the cost of our reconciliation.

Pastoral reflection. Faith rests on what Christ has done. His burial confirms the reality of his death; his resurrection grounds our hope. When guilt accuses you again, remember the gospel before measuring your relationship with God by the intensity of your emotions.

5 Repentance and faith

Direct texts: Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21. Jesus calls people to repent and believe the gospel. Paul summarizes his testimony as repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The response involves turning to God and trusting the Savior he has provided.

Complementary texts: 2 Corinthians 7:9–10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10. Paul distinguishes godly sorrow from sorrow that produces death. He also reminds the Thessalonians that they turned from idols to God to serve him and wait for his Son. Repentance changes the direction of a person's life.

Pastoral reflection. Sorrow alone does not save, and no quantity of tears can purchase forgiveness. Acknowledge your sin, stop defending it, and trust Christ. Changes in conduct express that response; they are not a payment that completes the work of the cross.

6 Jesus Christ and the entrance to life

Direct texts: John 14:6; Matthew 7:13–14. Jesus identifies himself as the way, the truth, and the life, and declares that access to the Father is through him. In the Sermon on the Mount, he contrasts the narrow gate leading to life with the broad road leading to destruction.

Complementary texts: John 10:7–11; Acts 4:12. Jesus uses the images of the gate and the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Peter proclaims that salvation is found in Jesus Christ. These images converge on the Savior himself and his authority to give life.

Pastoral reflection. The narrow gate does not authorize us to invent a system of merit or judge who looks religious enough. Examine the foundation of your trust. Following Christ involves your life and cannot be reduced to repeating words without believing in him.

7 Salvation by grace through faith

Direct texts: Ephesians 2:8–10. Paul attributes salvation to God’s grace, received through faith, and excludes works as grounds for boasting. He then says that believers are created in Christ for good works. Works belong in the saved life without becoming the cause of salvation.

Complementary texts: Titus 3:4–7; Romans 4:4–5. Titus connects salvation with divine mercy rather than righteous works we have performed. Romans distinguishes the wages owed to a worker from the justification received by someone who believes in God, who justifies the ungodly.

Pastoral reflection. Lacueva’s interlinear helps trace the sequence in Ephesians 2:8–10: grace, faith, and a life intended for good works. Receive the gift with gratitude. Helping, obeying, and serving respond to love already received; they do not place God in our debt.

8 Forgiveness and justification

Direct texts: Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:1. In Christ there is redemption through his blood and forgiveness according to the riches of his grace. Romans states that, justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. This peace rests on the reconciliation he has provided.

Complementary texts: Romans 3:24–26; Colossians 2:13–14. Paul presents justification as freely given through redemption in Christ, in which God demonstrates his righteousness. Colossians describes forgiveness and the cancellation of the record that stood against us, connecting both with the cross.

Pastoral reflection. Forgiveness does not mean that wrongdoing has no human consequences. We may need to acknowledge harm, make whatever repair is possible, and accept responsibility. Yet our acceptance before God rests on Christ. Peace with God sustains a conscience learning to live truthfully.

9 Eternal life and the seal of the Spirit

Direct texts: John 10:27–29; Ephesians 1:13–14. Jesus knows his sheep, gives them eternal life, and says that no one will snatch them from his hand or his Father’s hand. Ephesians declares that those who heard and believed the gospel were sealed with the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of their inheritance.

Complementary texts: Romans 8:1, 31–39; 1 John 5:11–13. Romans announces no condemnation for those in Christ and celebrates God’s love, from which nothing can separate them. John writes so that those who believe in the Son may know they have eternal life. Assurance has a foundation: Jesus Christ.

Pastoral reflection. Christian assurance nurtures trust and gratitude. It does not make sin harmless or remove the need for correction and growth. When you stumble, return to God in confession; do not confuse the believer’s struggle with a deficiency in the Savior’s work.

10 Resurrection and meeting the Lord

Direct texts: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. Paul comforts believers who have lost fellow Christians. The Lord will descend, the dead in Christ will rise first, and living believers will be caught up together with them to meet him. The central result is being with the Lord forever.

Complementary texts: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57; John 14:1–3. Paul describes the transformation of the perishable into the imperishable and victory over death through Jesus Christ. Jesus encourages his disciples to trust him and promises to receive them to himself. Hope includes the Savior's presence and the transformation of the body.

Pastoral reflection. Faith does not erase grief. The promise allows us to mourn with hope and accompany others without minimizing their loss. Paul tells us to comfort one another with these words, not to turn the passage into a calendar of dates it does not provide.

11 Judgment and the second death

Direct texts: Revelation 20:11–15. John sees the great white throne and the dead judged according to their works. Books are opened, including the book of life. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire; anyone not found written in the book of life is also thrown there.

Complementary texts: John 5:24–29; Romans 8:1. Jesus declares that whoever hears his word and believes the one who sent him has eternal life and has passed from death to life. He also announces a resurrection of life and a resurrection of judgment. Romans affirms no condemnation for those in Christ.

Pastoral reflection. Scripture does not allow us to treat judgment as an empty threat. Nor does it simply identify Hades with the final destination: Revelation distinguishes them. The pastoral response is to proclaim salvation seriously and point people to Christ, without adding imagined details to the passage.

12 Eternal fellowship with God

Direct texts: Revelation 21:1–4; Revelation 22:1–5. John sees a new heaven and a new earth. God dwells with his people, wipes away their tears, and ends death, pain, and mourning. The vision concludes with the river of life, the tree of life, and servants who see God’s face.

Complementary texts: Romans 8:18–25; 2 Peter 3:13. Paul connects believers’ hope with the liberation of creation and the redemption of the body. Peter speaks of new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells. Biblical hope includes renewed creation rather than an indefinite existence without purpose.

Pastoral reflection. The believer’s future is life in fellowship with God. This promise gives meaning to caring for people now and strengthens perseverance. Tears remain today; hope looks toward the God who has promised to wipe them away and has shown his faithfulness in Jesus Christ.

Pastoral invitation and prayer

This journey begins with a need we share and leads to the gift God offers in his Son. Christ died for our sins and rose again. The gospel invitation can therefore be stated clearly: repent toward God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not rely on supposed innocence, religious accomplishments, or the perfection of your feelings.

If you wish to express that response in prayer, speak to God in your own words. The following prayer offers guidance; trusting Christ does not depend on repeating a formula.

Lord God, I acknowledge my sin and my need for your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again. I turn to you and place my trust in him. Thank you for your grace and for the eternal life you give in your Son. Guide me through your Word and teach me to live in gratitude and obedience. Amen.

For reflection: What is the foundation of my hope before God? How does receiving a gift differ from demanding wages? How can the promise of being with Christ guide my decisions and my care for someone who is suffering?

Bibliographic references

Bible. Reina-Valera 1960. Primary biblical reference. Passages are identified by book, chapter, and verse throughout the narrative. English explanations are translations of the Spanish narrative, not quotations from a published English Bible.

Lacueva, Francisco. Nuevo Testamento interlineal griego-español. PDF supplied by the compiler. Specific consultation: Ephesians 2:8–10, p. 762 (PDF p. 768). Used as textual support; the pastoral reflections in this narrative are not attributed to that work.

Bravo Benavente, Ruperto. Reseña curricular del compilador. Document supplied for this edition. The final profile retains its biographical information and photograph in English translation.

Infographic appendix

FROM SIN TO ETERNAL LIFE

God's gift in Christ Jesus

1

THE HUMAN CONDITION
Romans 3:23
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2

SIN AND DEATH
Ezekiel 18:4 • Romans 6:23
Sin leads to death, but God offers eternal life in Christ.

3

GOD'S LOVE
John 3:16
God gave His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

4

THE GOSPEL
1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day.

5

REPENTANCE AND FAITH
Mark 1:15 • Acts 20:21
Turn to God and believe in our Lord Jesus Christ.

6

JESUS IS THE WAY
John 14:6 • Matthew 7:13-14
Access to the Father is through Jesus Christ.

7

SAVED BY GRACE
Ephesians 2:8-9
Salvation is a gift from God, received by faith.

8

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH
Romans 5:1 • Ephesians 1:7
In Christ we have forgiveness of sins and peace with God.

9

ETERNAL LIFE AND SECURITY
John 10:27-29 • Ephesians 1:13-14
Christ guards His own; the Holy Spirit is the seal and guarantee.

10

THE BLESSED HOPE
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
Believers will be with the Lord forever.

11

THE FINAL JUDGMENT
Revelation 20:11-15
Those not found in the book of life will be cast into the second death.

12

WITH GOD FOREVER
Revelation 21:1-4
God will live with His people; there will be no more death or sorrow.

Eternal life is God's gift in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23

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Biblical references: Reina-Valera 1960 • Explanatory summaries

Illustrated summary. Revelation 20:15 applies the lake of fire to those not found in the book of life.

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Compiler's profile



Ruperto Bravo Benavente (R.B.B.)

According to the supplied profile, he is a senior project developer and process engineering expert with more than 40 years of experience in the technical and financial structuring of industrial, agrifood, and critical infrastructure complexes.

His experience includes modernizing investment models and implementing technologies such as extrusion, cryogenics, and HIMSS 7, with attention to economic feasibility and international standards of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

He compiles and edits biblical and educational study materials. He resides in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In this work he serves as initiator, compiler, and editor responsible for presentation. The doctrinal content should be examined in the light of Holy Scripture.